

REMARKS

Claims 41 and 47 have been amended herein. Claim 44 has been canceled. Claims 49-56 are newly added.

Claims 4-15, 28-37, 41, 42, 45-47, and 49-56 are currently active. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants thank Examiner Celsa for indicating that Claims 4-15 and 28-37 have been allowed. Applicants further thank Examiner Celsa for indicating that Claims 44, 46, and 47 contain allowable subject matter.

Entry of the above Amendment After Final is respectfully requested because it places all of the claims into condition for allowance as per the items contained in the Final Office Action dated March 12, 2004.

Claims 41, 42, and 45 had been rejected under §102(b) and/or §103(a) in view of Wei et al. (WO 98/50579). The same claims had also been rejected under §103(a) in view of Wei et al. in view of Yaron et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,314,936). Both of these rejections are believed to have been rendered moot by appropriate amendment to Claim 41. Thus, withdrawal of these two rejections is respectfully requested.

Specifically addressing the amendments to the claims, Claim 41 has been amended to include the subject matter of Claim 44 (which was indicated as allowable in the Final Office Action). Thus, Claim 41 as amended and the claims dependent thereon are submitted as being allowable.

Claim 47, indicated as allowable in the Final Office Action, has been amended into an independent claim that includes all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening dependent claims. New Claims 49-52 depend directly from Claim 47 and mirror the line of dependent claims that depend from Claim 41 as amended.

Similarly, new Claim 53 presents the subject matter of Claim 46 as an independent claim, with new Claims 54-56 depending from Claim 53. These dependent claims mirror the line of claims depending from Claim 41.

Upon entry of this Amendment After Final, Applicants submit that all of the now pending claims are in condition for allowance as per the Final Office Action.

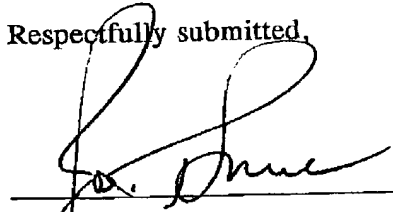
S.N. 09/955,639

-11 of 12-

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph T. Leone, Reg. No. 37,170
DEWITT ROSS & STEVENS S.C.
8800 Excelsior Drive, 4th Floor
Madison, Wisconsin 53717-1914
Telephone: (608) 831-2100
Facsimile: (608) 831-2106

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by fax to

Mail Stop: AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
VIA FAX: 703-872-9306

Date of Deposit: APRIL 2, 2004

Signature: 